

Please join me for a joint town hall meeting with Rep. Jim McCune at one of the following times. We'll discuss the state budget and additional questions and concerns regarding issues important to you and your community.

Friday April 30th, 2010

Yelm

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Rosemont Assisted Living Center
215 Killion Road Northwest

Saturday May 1st, 2010

Spanaway

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Spanaway Fire Station
17520 22nd Ave East

Graham

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Graham Fire Headquarters Station
23014 70th Ave E

Orting

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Orting Multi Purpose Room
202 Washington Ave S

State Representative **Tom Campbell** 2nd Legislative District (R)

Representing citizens of Pierce County, including McKenna, Roy, Spanaway, Orting, Graham and the City of Eatonville; and Yelm, Rainier and Lawrence Lake in Thurston County.



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Check out my Legislative web page:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/Pages/campbell.aspx>

Toll-free Legislative Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

TTY (hearing-impaired hotline):

1-800-635-9993

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2010 SESSION UPDATE

State Representative
TOM CAMPBELL
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

TOWN HALL
MEETINGS!

Friday,
April 30th 2010

&

Saturday,
May 1st 2010

See back for meeting times



Representing citizens
of Pierce County,
including McKenna,
Roy, Spanaway,
Orting, Graham
and the City of
Eatonville;
and Yelm, Rainier
and Lawrence Lake
in Thurston County.

State Representative
TOM CAMPBELL
2nd Legislative District

2010 SESSION UPDATE



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to represent you and the 2nd District in Olympia. Your continued support and feedback helps me address issues that are most important to you.

As we grappled with a \$2.8 billion budget deficit this session, I kept my promise to you by making it a priority to keep families employed and businesses running. I also consistently voted against raising taxes. I believe that improving our transportation infrastructure and helping businesses provide jobs will lead the way to a more fiscally responsible and promising future. As you'll see in this newsletter, the 2nd District has a number of transportation projects coming to our area. These are just the kind of projects I'm referring to. In Pierce County and the 2nd District, we're paving the way for new and local jobs while strengthening our transportation infrastructure and overall safety of our roads.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions regarding the 2nd District and issues relating to the Washington state Legislature. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Tom Campbell
State Representative, 2nd District



Raising taxes is not the answer

When the House voted to temporarily suspend Initiative 960, I voted no. Initiative 960 was passed by voters in 2007 and required a two-thirds vote in order to pass any tax increases, creating a high hurdle for raising taxes. Although I believe my colleagues from both parties are in search of the best way to alleviate pain brought on by the global economic crisis, I do not believe that making it easier to raise taxes is the right answer. This session, undoubtedly, presented new challenges and left a heavy strain on lawmakers. Consumer confidence is still low, which means that less money is being collected from our state's sales tax. This ultimately means less money to work with, and at the same time, we've seen an increase in demand for government services that are supported by these funds. However, fiscal responsibilities must stay intact regardless of the financial difficulties we face. Raising taxes does not provide us with a long-term solution. Instead, it provides us with a short-term fix. By boosting business, we can keep individuals employed and support families during this tough time. That's why I stand in strong support of finding new ways to put Washingtonians back to work, including providing good private sector jobs and employing local folks to improve our transportation infrastructure.

Paving the way for new jobs and improved transportation

Maintaining more than \$164 million for transportation projects in Pierce County and the 2nd District in the current two-year budget was a major victory this session. Most notably, this was accomplished with no new taxes. The final transportation budget is estimated to generate around 3,000 new jobs over the two-year budget cycle. By moving forward with projects such as highway improvements and preservation, many of those jobs will be made available in the 2nd District. Over six years, my colleagues and I will have secured more than \$1.4 billion for local transportation projects in Pierce County and the 2nd District. With the recently passed budget, approximately \$500,000 has been awarded to provide a traffic signal at the intersection of State Route 7 and State Route 702 to prevent further accidents and fatalities. This area has been in dire need of a traffic light for years, and unfortunately, lives have been lost before it could be added. I look forward to making this a safer place for drivers and pedestrians while putting people back to work to make this improvement.

Other projects that are supported in the two-year transportation budget include funding for the southern portion of the State Route 510 Yelm Loop project, which will reduce traffic congestion along this 4.2-mile, two lane corridor within the city of Yelm and unincorporated Thurston County. Funding to replace the Puyallup River Bridge was also included, making it possible to maintain natural habitat and improve safety.

State Representative **TOM CAMPBELL** 2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Increasing awareness of hospital infections

A few years ago I prime sponsored legislation requiring the state Department of Health to publish at least annually a report that compares health-care associated infections with outcomes at individual hospitals. With hospital-acquired infections listed as the eighth leading cause of death in the nation, it was clear to me that something had to be done. I'm proud to report that last December a new state website was created to give patients the ability to compare infection rates at hospitals across the state and learn ways to prevent infections. The new site was a big step forward in helping people better understand the quality of care they can expect when they have to go to a hospital. By linking patients to vital, accurate information, I believe we can dramatically boost prevention efforts.

Contracting a potentially life-threatening infection during or shortly after receiving hospital care is a serious problem that must continue to be met by bridging communication gaps and increasing accountability. That's why I introduced additional legislation this year to require hospitals to report certain health care data to assist in lowering the spread of bacterial infection caused by methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and other infections. This is the first year we have had active data for tracking hospital acquired infections, and it is working well. However, some problems have surfaced in the surgical site infections definitions. The legislation I introduced this year helps eliminate those problems and put us back on track for reporting publicly the infection rates by hospitals and helping to reduce the incidence of hospital acquired infections.



Gov. Gregoire signs into law Campbell's bill to crackdown on the production of methamphetamine in Washington.

Addressing environmental health issues

As Chair of the House Environmental Health Committee, I've had the opportunity to take a close look at environmental risks and their possible impact on human health. After years of helping push through legislation to ban the hormone-disrupting chemical bisphenol A (BPA) from baby bottles and other food and beverage containers, I'm pleased to report that this session we banned the toxic chemical bisphenol A (BPA) from baby bottles, sippy cups and other food beverage containers used by children under the age of three. Over 150 independent studies have linked BPA to breast and prostate cancer, sexual dysfunction, diabetes and a wide range of other adverse health effects. This is definitely a dangerous toxin that children should not be exposed to, and I'm proud to take a step forward to protect our future generations. Senate Bill 6248 passed the House 96 to 1 and it passed the Senate 38 to 9.

The House Environmental Health Committee also passed legislation this year to counter the large influx of mercury being released into the environment when disposing of fluorescent lights. Senate Bill 5543, which passed the House 71 to 27 and the Senate 36 to 12, reduces mercury in the environment by establishing a producer-financed product-stewardship program for collecting, recycling, and disposing mercury-containing fluorescent lights. More and more people are purchasing fluorescent lights, which makes sense given their energy saving capabilities. However, there's currently no statewide recycling program for compact fluorescent lights and fluorescent bulbs, leaving hundreds of pounds of mercury to threaten our public health and safety. Starting Jan. 1, 2013, all users must recycle mercury-containing lights, prohibiting the disposal of mercury-containing lights in waste incinerators or landfills. This is a major step forward in providing a no-cost mercury-recycling solution that will become available statewide and help remove highly toxic mercury from our environment.

Cracking down on methamphetamine

My previous efforts to crackdown on methamphetamine labs in Washington have helped wipe out more than 80 percent of labs statewide. Most of these were large labs also known as "nazi" labs. However, the smaller "backpack and pop bottle" labs have survived and are thriving. That's why I introduced legislation this year to counter "smurfing," which is going from store to store to purchase methamphetamine precursors that can be used for small scale productions of the drug. Building on success and furthering previous legislative efforts, the legislation establishes a statewide electronic tracking system for non-prescription sales of methamphetamine precursors. Using data that's already required to be captured by law, the electronic tracking system stops an illegal sale and works with no cost to the state or retailers. Effective this June, the new law will also change the daily sales limit for methamphetamine precursors to reflect federal law, which requires that merchants sell no more than 3.6 grams of methamphetamine precursors to a purchaser in a single day and no more than nine grams per 30 days. State law previously allowed a daily limit of two packages, with no more than three grams per package.